

Moratorium eased!

Quality of life projects could start rolling off the drawing board

A sigh of relief ... sort of.

The moratorium imposed by Congress (HR 4205, which became Public Law 106-398 on October 30, 2000) has been eased, though not completely lifted.

The provision easing the halt on all construction on post is part of the FY 2006 Defense Authorizations Act.

The Bill (HR 1815) was introduced in the House of Representatives in April 2005; passed by the House in May. After deliberation in various committees, the Senate passed it on November 15. House and Senate conference committees then reviewed all amendments. On December 19, the House ratified the conference report. Two days later, the Senate agreed, and the bill was presented to the President

on January 3, 2006. The President signed it into law (Public Law 109-163) on January 6, 2006. -- a Three Kings Day treat.

The Bill contains a "Clarification of Moratorium on Certain Improvements at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico." While it still states that "no acquisition, construction or extension of any facility may be initiated on post," the law now allows for exceptions such as:

- * actions necessary to maintain, repair, replace or convert existing facilities;
- * construction of Reserve Component and nonappropriated fund facilities;
- * construction of facilities supporting Department of Defense education activities and

* any construction or extension required to support the installation of communication activities.

In layman's terms, what does this represent for Fort Buchanan?

It means that the amendment will allow for a number of projects that were on hold to proceed. Some of the projects include installation of emergency power generators, building of sidewalks, placing storm shutters, building handicap access ramps and of course the repairs or minor construction work needed to replace, maintain or even convert existing facilities.

About two dozen construction projects representing an investment of over \$51 million were on hold. Among them were the construction of a new Child

Development Center, a Training center, a new Vehicle Maintenance Shop, a new outdoor swimming pool, new facilities for the Directorate of Emergency Services (formerly the Provost Marshal Office) and an expansion and renovation of the Fitness Center. Each of these projects will be carefully re-examined, case by case. Pending legal review and the availability of funds, we could start seeing some of them being built during 2006.

But the work is not done yet.

Fort Buchanan and influential sectors of the local community will continue their efforts to achieve a total lifting of the moratorium. The command is thankful for the efforts of all who in one way or another have helped in achieving this partial victory.

EL MORRO



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'06

**New challenges, opportunities
dawn on Fort Buchanan**

FROM THE COMMANDER:

THE
Federal
Support
Center
of the
Caribbean

The United States Army Garrison and Fort Buchanan wishes each and everyone associated with this post a happy and prosperous 2006.

The year 2006 will be one of transition for Fort Buchanan. The Garrison staff has been conducting strategic planning for the post. This includes both master planning for the facility and plans for the conduct of business on post. The planning is not yet complete and the results are subject to change, but here is where the outline stands today. Our stated vision at this point is Fort Buchanan becomes "The Federal support center of the Caribbean." For you grammatical purists capitalizing "the" is not an error. This vision is designed to be short, memorable and clearly identify our future direction. It reflects Fort Buchanan is the last remaining Department of Defense facility in the region, our senior mission command directed missions and the reliance of the greater federal agency community on the support assets of the installation.

We have settled to date on the following mission statement: "enable customers to succeed by providing sustainable Base Support, excellent services and an installation connected to the community prepared to support deployment." This does not change our current four part mission as directed from the senior mission command (United States Army Reserve Command) but rather gives guidance to the Garrison staff in understanding their role in a way that can be executed and communicates to those we support what they can expect from the Garrison.

We have identified four strategic goals. They are: Leadership, being a customer focused organization, mobilization and development of strategic partnerships. Leadership in this context is about developing and retaining visionary leaders and an innovative, professional workforce. Customer focused organization is about being an agile, efficient, customer-driven, results-oriented organization to support current and future missions. Mobilization is about planning, coordinating, and executing mobilization/demobilization of Reserve Component Commands of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. With strategic partnerships we hope to expand the use of strategic partnerships to create value and benefit for the entire Fort Buchanan community.

Our goals currently have the following strategic objectives.

- * Explore, analyze, and resolve our OCONUS versus CONUS status for the organization's well-being
- * Establish and maintain a program of individual develop-

ment

- * Develop future leaders through mentoring and internship programs.
- * Institutionalize knowledge and information collection, sharing and management
- * Build relationships of trust and confidence through open communication with all customers and stakeholders, internal and external
- * Gain efficiencies by reviewing processes and making necessary changes
- * Plan, design, test, and improve mobilization/demobilization procedures that reflect current and future DoD requirements.
- * Develop the components and structure to become the Power Support Platform of choice in the Caribbean.
- * Develop and implement community support programs which provide mutual benefit for all stakeholders
- * Deploy the Fort Buchanan communication systems to promote the value that Fort Buchanan provides to the community
- * Develop a plan to provide military support to civilian authorities as directed.

These objectives are planning tasks that Directors will develop into action plans. These plans, executed using Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) should result in ever spiraling improvement over the long term.

The New Year should also see some change in facility. Unfortunately the moratorium on construction continues to exist here at Fort Buchanan. However, new exceptions have been approved by the Congress. The changes are "construction of reserve component and nonappropriated fund facilities, the construction of facilities supporting Department of Defense education activities and any construction or extension required to support the installation of communications equipment. So we now have greater flexibility than in previous years.

We all look forward to a good and productive year.



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"The past year has continued to be a challenging period for the Army and the Nation, but we have met every challenge – from highly successful combat operations in two theaters, to Homeland Security support of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita to continued transformation of the operational and institutional parts of the Army. With unsurpassed professionalism, courage and commitment, our Soldiers have endured great hardships, lost many friends and comrades along the way, have made lasting contributions to the peace, freedom and security of two formerly oppressed nations and have defended and preserved our Nation's way of life. I am honored to serve as the Secretary of the Army and I look forward to 2006 to continue the tremendous progress we have made in building the Army of the future through Transformation and Modernization – all the while...our Soldiers continue to fight and win the Global War on Terrorism."

The Honorable Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army

2006 brings new challenges, opportunities

As 2006 dawns on Fort Buchanan, new challenges and opportunities spring up on the horizon as the installation moves into its post-BRAC position of growth, expansion, consolidation of Department of Defense activities into the installation, a new vision for its Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs and the task of supporting Reserve Component operations throughout the island.

The easing of the construction moratorium that weighed heavily on the installation also opens additional possibilities.

Improvements will be readily seen in the installation's MWR programs. "Some of the many exciting changes you will see in the coming year include a new updated sports bar called 'The Zone'," said MWR Director Freddie Giddens. The Zone, located at the Community Club and Conference Center, will feature three 50-inch plasma TVs, and will offer variety music, disco dancing and karaoke entertainment, among other amenities. Based on customer support and participation, the initial Thursday, Friday and Saturday night entertainment could be expanded. "Also planned is a Cyber Net Café, the 'C-4', with interactive games,

sports competitions, fight nights, specialty coffees and web surfing," Giddens added.

Also at the Club, movie fans will be able to watch newly released films three days a week on a theater-size screen. Improvement will also continue at the newly-renovated

Bowling Center, at the Water Spout and at the Golf Club, upgrading and improving those facilities to Army standards.

Long-range improvements facilitated by the partial lifting of the construction moratorium will include an addition to the Fitness Center, a 50-meter swimming pool, new Child Development Center and a new, centrally located Fitness Trail to replace the facility destroyed years ago by Hurricane Hugo.

2006 will see the full implementation of the Island-Wide Garrison Plan. Effective since October 2005, the initiative expands Fort Buchanan's reach to the entire island to provide administrative, maintenance and logistical support to all US Army Reserve centers throughout Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. That support could be extended to Puerto Rico National Guard facilities and even to other services and federal agencies if requested. It also includes a Reserve enclave on former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station grounds. Currently, details of the plan are being coordinated with the 65th Regional Readiness Command.

Buchanan's tenant population would also expand as Defense Department and other federal agencies continue to gravitate towards the installation as a Homeland Security/Defense hub. The Army National Guard and the US Army Reserve plan to move more units on post. The Guard continues to envision the relocation of its Language School and its main Headquarters here. The Air Force plans to move some facilities on post. Army ROTC, Recruiting, the Defense Contracting Audit Agency, Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) as well as some federal law enforcement agencies also see themselves eventually within our fence.

Some of these relocations could take place during 2006 and continue in the near future as Buchanan establishes itself more firmly as THE Federal Support Center of the Caribbean.

Fort Buchanan's Mission:

Provide base support services for the installation and for all Army Reserve Soldiers, units and facilities in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.

Provide support to the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, to active and reserve forces of other services and to federal agencies located in Puerto Rico, when requested.

Develop and execute contingency plans; execute oversight for the Army anti-terrorism/force protection program and, on order, serve as the base support installation for conduct of military support to civil authority operations.

As a Power Support Platform, plan, prepare and execute mobilization, validation, deployment and demobilization for units of the Army Reserve and National Guard units of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Buchanan team offers funeral support in Panama

Fort Buchanan's Casualty Office, in charge of providing for the solemn disposal of Soldiers' remains and assisting their families, has as its area of operations not only Puerto Rico but also the rest of the Caribbean and Central and South America.

As part of their mission they have travelled to provide their services to Jamaica, Trinidad-Tobago, St. Lucia, Antigua, St. Thomas, the Dominican Republic and Panama.

A 15-man military and civilian team, which included a funeral detail of Soldiers from the US Army Reserve and Puerto Rico National Guard, travelled to Panama on January 5 to conduct the first ever complete military funeral --airport honors, chapel guard and gravesite ceremony -- on foreign soil for an active duty Soldier killed in Iraq.

The event received ample coverage from Panamanian and Latin American media. US Ambassador William Eaton and Panamanian government authorities attended the funeral.

The Soldier, Warrant Officer (WO) Isaías Enrique Santos, was born in Panama. His mother is Panamanian. His father is retired Sgt. 1st Class José Santos Alvares, a Puerto Rican.

WO Santos died December 26 in Baghdad when the helicopter which he co-piloted crashed after colliding with another helicopter.

Photos by Joe Bonet, DOIM-VI



Former Tuskegee Airman to be guest speaker at post's Black History Month observance

US Air Force Lt.Col (Ret.) Hiram E. Mann, a Tuskegee Airmen Squadron pilot during WW II, will be the guest speaker at the Fort Buchanan Black History Month community program set for Thursday, Feb. 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Community Club. The event is open to the community.

On Jul. 19, 1941, the Air Force began a program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. Primary flight training was conducted by the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881. Once

a cadet completed primary training at Tuskegee's Moton Field, he was sent to nearby Tuskegee Army Air Field for completion of flight training and for transition to combat type aircraft. The first classes of Tuskegee airmen were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for combat duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332d Fighter Group which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

In Sep. 1943, a twin-engine training program was begun at Tuskegee to provide bomber pilots. However,

World War II ended before these men were able to get into combat.

By the end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 of whom were sent overseas for combat assignment. During the same period, approximately 150 lost their lives while in training or on combat flights.

Additional men were trained at Tuskegee for air-crew and groundcrew duties--flight engineers, gunners, mechanics, armorers, etc. Others were sent to Texas and New Mexico for training as navigators and bombardiers.



AROUND THE FORT

By Melissa Zayas

Unsung heroes

The Directorate of Public Works' Operation & Maintenance Division, is in charge of keeping the surroundings of Fort Buchanan at their best. The division has 11 employees that include tractor operators and laborers.

Among their duties, they are charged with providing materials to the residents of Fort Buchanan; mowing the lawns around the post -- a monumental task -- including the lawns of vacant quarters, maintaining children's playgrounds clean and safe. They also clean the parking areas and do emergency clean-ups such as cutting dry trees and cleaning the drains.

The workers for this division are Rubén Correa, Victor Roman, Luis del Castillo, Alan Grassette and Jose Rivera. The supervisor for the roads and grounds team is Juan Gonzalez Rosas. Gonzalez was in charge for the Christmas decorations outside the DPW building.

Boy Scout camp on post



Boy Scout Troop 790 from Mayaguez camped early this month at Maxi Williams Field in Fort Buchanan to earn their merit badges. This troop was founded by Américo López, who has been their leader for 25 years.

Every afternoon while they were camping they had troop meetings. They also hiked and enjoyed some of the post's facilities. 24 scouts between the ages of 11 through 18 stayed here. This troop was the first one in Puerto Rico to travel to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Equal Opportunity

Fort Buchanan's Equal Opportunity Office has many facets, one of the most prominent of which is the implementation of special emphasis programs and events. Their aim is to ensure equal opportunity in hiring, training and progress of individuals belonging to minority groups. They also help create awareness by holding activities on occasions such as Hispanic Heritage, Black Heritage, Asian American and Native American Heritage months, among others. You may contact them in Building 1022A or by calling 707-2228.

Health Clinic closure tentatively slated for August

The Rodríguez Army Health Clinic established on Fort Buchanan may close its doors on August 1, 2006, if a current plan continues into effect.

The intention to terminate all services provided at the Clinic was announced earlier this month by Brig. Gen. Donald M. Bradshaw, Commander of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia, which has the jurisdiction over the Buchanan facility. He is also the director of the Health Services Area that encompasses Puerto Rico.

Bradshaw visited the post Jan 18, holding meetings with Buchanan Commander, Col. Stephen Ackman and his staff, and with the Buchanan community at a Town Hall held that day at the Community Club.

"TRICARE Puerto Rico,

the health care plan for the uniformed service members and their families, was implemented in Puerto Rico in 2004 when Fort Buchanan was redesignated as an Army Reserve installation," Bradshaw said. "The TRICARE Puerto Rico contract contains provisions to provide primary and specialty care services to all eligible beneficiaries," he added.

TRICARE notwithstanding, active duty Soldiers continue to receive primary care at the Clinic. The facility also provides support to a large segment of the retiree community. Substantial support is provided to mobilizing soldiers and those returning from theater or not

deployed because of medical reasons.

"In concert with the Department of Defense



changes in Puerto Rico, the Army Medical Department is aligning its resources appropriately," Bradshaw noted. "To date, the US Army Dental Facility closed 1 De-

cember 2005; the Veterinary Facility is in the process of closing, and I am requesting closure of Rodríguez Army Health Clinic on 1 August 2006," he announced.

A Medical Services Action Plan was submitted to the Commander, US Army Medical Command, proposing

closure of the Clinic.

Since the plan is still under review, the Commanding general of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Medical Center and Commander of the Southeast Regional Medical Command, Brig. Gen. Donald M. Bradshaw held the Town Hall meeting at the Community Club, "to explore the needs of the community."

The meeting was attended by a large group of soldiers and retirees and their families, concerned about the possible closure.

The audience stressed the need for quality medical services, particularly for soldiers being mobilized and those on medical hold. Civilian employees and child care providers stressed the need for auxiliary services such as occupational health, training and required certifications that could not easily be pro-

vided in the local economy. Soldiers emphasized the need for quality care from providers that would be more attuned to their particular needs as military. Parents voiced concern over support for children with special needs. Some audience members pointed out to the message that could be sent to the local community with another closure of a military facility.

The various groups were unanimous in their opinion that the Clinic was providing excellent services that should not go away.

Bradshaw welcomed their remarks and noted that the closure is not a done deal, but a proposal, and that alternatives would be sought so that "this well-deserving community" would not lack the quality services it needed and was entitled to.

Annual 'Weingarten' Rights Notice:

The union is entitled to represent bargaining unit employees at meetings when employees are questioned in connection with an investigation. This provision is referred to as an employee's Weingarten rights, based on a Supreme Court decision. The Federal Service Labor-Relations Statute establishes three conditions that must be met for a meeting to be considered a "Weingarten" meeting:

1. One or more agency representatives are examining (questioning) a bargaining unit employee in connection with an investigation;
2. The employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee and;
3. The employee requests union representation.

Once all three conditions have been met, supervisors may not continue the examination without allowing the employee his or her requested representation. Specifically, the supervisor's options under these circumstances are:

- Grant the request and notify the union that a meeting to examine a bargaining unit employee is going to take place and that the employee has requested union representation. If the union attends the meeting it must be allowed to make comments but it cannot disrupt the meeting nor can it answer the questions posed to the employee;
- Discontinue the interview and rely on evidence already available or information obtained from other sources, or;
- Offer the employee a clear choice to either continue the interview without representation, or have no interview.

"Weingarten" rights are not applicable when management issues a disciplinary action since management is not asking any questions. Additionally, the "Weingarten" right does not come into play when engaging in performance counseling as this does not concern disciplinary matters but, rather, performance issues.

Additional information regarding "Weingarten" rights can be obtained in PERMISS at <http://www.cpol.army.mil/permiss/4122.html>.



WINNERS! - The now traditional Martin Luther King Jr. 5K Fun Run was held 11 January starting at 7 a.m. Winners in the different age categories were Jasmine Bracey, Zulimar Ciuro, María A. Juárez and Laura Meléndez for the ladies, and Omar Santos, Edgardo Meléndez, Raúl Cedeño, José Valentín, Luis Bermúdez and Richard Smith for the gents. In all, 118 runners registered for the race and 95 actually participated. Will we be seeing some of them at the World's Best 10 K Moscoso Bridge Run February 26? Or the Army Ten Miler in October? Time will tell. Congratulations to the winners! (Photo by Vicente Vélez, PAO Staff)

Schoomaker predicts bigger, busier Army in '06

By Jennifer Downing
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The chief of staff of the Army said he expects to see developments with base realignment and closures, an increase in modular brigades and operational force strength, and 20,000 jobs converted from the military to civilian workforce in 2006.

Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker gave an overview of the direction the Army is going for the next year at the annual Institute for Land Warfare Forum Breakfast in Arlington, Va., Jan. 12.

"This year is going to be the busiest

year we've ever had," said Schoomaker about the Army as a whole, but he said NATO is expected to take on more responsibility in Afghanistan in the coming year.

Schoomaker said he is confident that forming a more fully resourced Army across the board will improve the Army's mission achievement. A piece of that puzzle is converting jobs at Army installations in the United States to the civilian workforce. By converting those jobs, he said Soldiers would then be able to fill operational spaces overseas.

"The War on Terror is about ideas

and changing things that are fundamental," Schoomaker said.

BRAC will also prove to make headlines this year, he said, as officials work with the installations set for realignment or closure and work out the best way to execute the congressional mandate.

While hard issues drive how the Army will evolve in 2006, Schoomaker said the Soldiers he met have made an impact on how he sees the War on Terrorism evolving.

Visiting the troops in theater and traveling to Landstuhl, Germany, confirmed to the chief of staff that troops want to continue the fight. He talked

to Soldiers who have been wounded in battle and are anxious to get back in theater.

He also talked about the humanitarian efforts he saw in Pakistan and how the Army is shaping the world and changing perceptions. An example he cited was a toy that became a favorite of the children in Pakistan – a little, plastic Army Chinook – which was "of course made in China," he said.

Schoomaker said he is confident the Army will be able to step up and deliver in the coming year.

"We are moving up the mountain and over the hump," he said.

Army helps DNA scientists unravel Mozart identity mystery

By Sgt. Ken Hall

WASHINGTON – U.S. military DNA researchers have been involved in a 200-year-old mystery about the identity of a skull long-suspected to be that of classical music composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

"Past tests were inconclusive, but this time, we succeeded in getting a clear result," said lead researcher Dr. Walther Parson, a renowned forensic pathologist at the Institute of Legal Medicine, Innsbruck Medical University, Austria. He said the results were "100 percent verified" by a U.S. Army laboratory.

Department of Defense scientists at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, a division of the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, Md., were presented with a small tooth from the skull to be analyzed and compared with DNA samples taken from three skeletons exhumed from the Mozart family grave, at San Sebastian Cemetery, Salzburg, Austria.

"When the Austrians determined they needed a lab to

corroborate this very important historic case, they contacted me in early 2005 and requested that we do so," said Dr. Thomas J. Parsons, Mozart skull project leader at AFIP. "There were three scientists involved in the testing; myself, Dr. Odile Loreille and Army Col. Brion Smith."

Buried in poverty

Mozart was an unsalaried deputy kapellmeister (orchestra and choir master) of St. Stephen's in Vienna when he died on Dec. 5, 1791, in his Vienna apartment after succumbing to what most historians and scholars have long believed to be a fever at the age of 35. He was laid to rest in a pauper's grave at Vienna's St. Mark's Cemetery on Dec. 6, 1791.

In 1801, the St. Mark's Cemetery Trust had the third-class plot in which Mozart – and 15 to 20 others were buried – retrenched, which was an automatic procedure every 10 years to enable graves to be reused. The cemetery, which opened in 1784, only had room

for 7,000 graves and plots were expensive. Wealthy residents' bones were cleaned and placed in a charnel house with their names painted on the skull whereas the bones of the

poor were exhumed and crushed, reinterred in the Vienna Zentralfriedhof (central cemetery) or disposed of in some other way.



Where indignity began...

Mozart's grave was reopened by Joseph Rothmayer, the same grave digger who had buried him a decade earlier. Rothmayer knew before the burial in 1791 what Mozart's ultimate fate would be, so he had tied wire around Mozart's neck to enable him to distinguish the remains from the others. When 10 years had passed, Rothmayer knew the exact location of the body, sought it out and saved the skull from the bone crusher.

The skull of Mozart would meet the same fate of his music peers – Beethoven, Liszt, Schubert and Haydn; their skulls were also exhumed by students of phrenology and displayed by collectors.

The first century of the skull's above-ground journey would end with a private donation in 1902 to the International Mozarteum Foundation in Salzburg, Austria. It remained on public display there until 1955, and has since been subjected to several forensic tests by researchers, doctors and historians from around the world. Until now, the findings have not been compelling enough for the Mozarteum to accept them – one way or the other – as the definitive truth as to the true identity of the skull.

"When we engage in these collaborative exercises on particularly difficult materials, it further validates the work we do every day for the missing Soldiers from the Korean and Vietnam era and beyond," said Parsons. "With that in mind, we got wonderful results from all the DNA samples that we typed, from the reference samples from the family grave to the putative tooth from the

skull. Both our lab and the Austrian lab achieved exactly the same results and in some cases, we recovered a remarkable amount of information – especially from the tooth.

A mystery continues

"I am quite disappointed that the mystery continues," said Parsons. "All the samples from the three who were believed to be relatives of Mozart all had different mitochondrial DNA from each other, and from the Mozart skull. So if any one of them is an actual maternal relative of Mozart, it means that the skull is not Mozart's. We don't know if that is the case so the final analysis is inconclusive.

"We have attained definitive results from the skull," said Parsons. "In the future, if anyone comes forward with an authentic matrilineal relative or a paternal relative, we now have 'y' chromosomal data and we will be in a position to make a confirmation.

After several months of testing, the true identity of the skull remains inconclusive to be that of the world-renowned 18th-century classical composer.

National Guard transformation taking shape through 2006

By Maj. Les A. Melnyk

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army National Guard's transformation, highlighted by the organization of 34 new modular brigades, continues to march toward a programmed completion date of 2008.

The transformation to these cost-effective, rapidly deployable formations is occurring in the midst of ongoing deployments overseas in support of the Global War on Terror, as well as extensive deployments here in the United States for Operation Noble Eagle and for domestic disaster response.

For much of 2005, the Army Guard contributed half of the Army's combat forces on the ground in Iraq. These combat-proven units in many cases returned to immediately begin transformation to the new, modular configuration, with the goal being to make them identical in structure and manning to their active Army counterparts — though at a considerably cheaper price, since the Guard units are manned by part-time citizen-soldiers.

Transformation affects three-quarters of force

Seventy-three percent of all Army

National Guard units are affected by transformation — the largest shift in Guard force structure since the end of World War II. The transition began in fiscal year 2005.

As in the active component, the Guard's brigade combat teams come in three types — Infantry, Armored (formerly called "Heavy"), and Stryker. In addition to the BCTs, the Army Guard will also be fielding a number of new modular supporting units — six "Fires Brigades," 10 "Combat Support Brigades (Maneuver Enhancement)," 11 Sustainment Brigades, 12 Aviation Brigades, an Aviation Command and three Sustainment Commands.

As in the Regular Army, the eight Army National Guard Divisions are shedding all their organic structure and transforming to a modular, deployable command and control headquarters.

In peacetime, the Guard division headquarters will have training and oversight authority for four or five BCTs located in the same geographic area. In wartime, each division will

have a variable number of BCTs and support units attached to it depending on its mission.

In addition, Guard division headquarters will have the capability to exercise command and control in a domestic emergency, as did both the 35th and 38th Infantry Divisions following Hurricane Katrina.

Guard losing eight brigades

The transition to 34 Brigade Combat Teams represents a considerable reduction in the Army National Guard's combat force structure from only five years ago. In 2000, the Army Guard consisted of eight complete infantry divisions, each consisting of three maneuver brigades, plus 16 separate brigades, an Armored Cavalry Regiment and an Infantry Group, for a total of 42 ground maneuver brigades or their equivalent. The Army Guard's authorized strength of 350,000 in 2000 was the same as it is today.

The transition is even more dramatic when compared to the Cold War height of the Army Guard in 1989, when strength stood at 457,000 and the Guard fielded 53 ground maneuver brigades or their equivalent.

The reduction in forces is equally dramatic in other branches, most notably Field Artillery. There, the Cold War reserve of 17 Field Artillery Brigades and a Corps Artillery Headquarters that are currently in the Guard will shrink to six "Fires Brigades" by 2008.

Plan changed since October

The initial announcement on the designations for these modular units was made at the Association of the United States Army annual convention in Washington, DC, in October. Extensive evaluation and input from the states since then has led to a few significant changes to the Army National Guard picture.

A major issue throughout the transformation to modular units was the desire to retain the lineage and honors of historic Army Guard regiments and battalions. In many cases, affected states, NGB, and the U.S. Army Center of Military History jointly decided to convert historic regiments to a new branch in order to keep their lineage intact. Overall, the conversion to modular units led to a large decrease in the number of field artillery and armor battalions in the Guard, and an increase in the number of cavalry squadrons.



Corps finishes 'Blue Roof' repairs in Florida

By Amanda Ellison

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is closing out the "Operation Blue Roof" program in Florida, with more than 42,000 homes receiving temporary roofing repairs since Hurricane Wilma made landfall in October. The program was headed by Engineer José Rosado, Chief Antilles Construction Office from Puerto Rico and his *boricua* team. Rosado is also the Commander of the 65th Regional Readiness Command here on Fort Buchanan.

The Corps began the program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Operation Blue Roof provides homeowners free

temporary blue plastic roof coverings for eligible homes damaged by Hurricane Wilma.

The program enables those affected by the hurricane to get back into their homes so that they can return to their routines as quickly as possible, Corps officials said. They said it also greatly reduces the need for more expensive temporary housing.

The first Right of Entry form was collected two days after Wilma struck, Corps officials said. Within two weeks, more than 30,000 requests for assistance were received, and more than 50 percent of all eligible, damaged roofs had been covered.

At the peak of the program, nearly 4,000 ROE forms were

collected, and 1,700 homes were protected on a daily basis, according to Corps reports.

The Corps collected thousands of requests for assistance in two weeks time by partnering with local emergency operation centers in 13 affected counties. Each county provided both volunteers and resources to help the Corps bring relief to devastated areas quickly and efficiently.

A speedy recovery was the goal of the Corps for residents living in dire conditions. Phone banks were established



Corps personnel set the blue roofs in this Corps of Engineers photo

in the Miami and Clewiston areas, allowing residents to speak personally with an operator about the program. Callers could voice concerns and ask questions on the status of their roof repair.

The phone banks provided

both Spanish and Creole translators when needed.

In addition to providing temporary roofing repairs, the Corps supported FEMA by providing ice, water, and temporary housing for Hurricane Wilma recovery efforts.

YOUR ARMY IN ACTION!



1st Lt. Ruben Burgos, from the 82nd Airborne Division, provides security while his team searches for improvised explosive devices in Tal Afar, Iraq.



A U.S. soldier assigned to the 173rd Airborne Infantry runs to meet an incoming CH-47 Chinook as it brings Christmas Eve mail to a forward operating base in Afghanistan. Air operations have served a critical role in providing support to America's deployed forces.



Egyptian and U.S. Soldiers give clothes to needy Afghan children during a joint humanitarian aid mission at Bagram, Afghanistan.



Staff Sgt. Jason Lyday, from the 101st Airborne Division, at Forward Operating Base McHenry, demonstrates to Iraqi trainees the correct handling of the AK-47 rifle in a tactical situation.



An Army refueler "tops off" an Apache AH-64A with fuel at Forward Operating Base Mackenzie, Iraq.



Captain Steve Hommel from the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, hands out hats and toys to Iraqi children, 24 December 2005, Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq.



Spc. Ted Trenary and Pfc. Kevin Tirserio (right), from the 101st Airborne Division, prepare to launch the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle at Forward Operating Base McHenry, Iraq. The Raven is being used to hunt for roadside bombs.



Soldiers from the 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, search for insurgents along the Euphrates River southwest of Baghdad.



Soldiers from the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, receive close combat air support as they patrol the Tigris River, southeast of Baghdad.



Pfc. Crystal Jiminez, from the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team, gives a snack to a shy Iraqi child in Haswah.

Soldiers of Alpha Company, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion and Iraqi army Special Troops Company, 9th Mechanized Brigade conduct a clinical health outreach program in Subak Sur, Iraq.



Greetings from Iraq!

The 597th QM CO serving proudly

By Belinda Carrasquillo
Family Readiness Group

The 597th QM CO Headquarters is located in Al Taqaddum Air Base. From this base is where we manage the mission and provide the Fob's with the resources they need to do their mission. Here is where the CDR and the 1SG are located. There is also the Maintenance section run by SSG Rentero and the Supply section runner by 2LT Beyah and SSG Patterson. The operations are run by 1LT Guadalupe and SFC Moreno. HQ's has 23 soldiers.

We have an SLCR team stationed in Fallujah. The



NCOIC is SFC Espinoza. The team has 24 soldiers in total. They process an average of 1,000 bundles of laundry and 50 showers a day. This is our biggest mission. They support 14,000 soldiers.

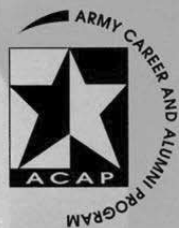
Our SLCR Team stationed in Dogwood runs our second biggest mission. The NCOIC is SFC Figueroa. The team has 16 soldiers in total. They process an average of 300 bundles of laundry, 20 showers and 10 pieces of clothing a day. They support 1,000 soldiers.

Another SLCR Team is stationed in Iskandariyah. NCOIC is SFC Ojeda. The

team has 9 soldiers in total. They process an average of 150 bundles of laundry a day. They support 500 soldiers.

In Corregidor we have an SLCR Team handling our newest mission. The NCOIC is SSG Rosado. The team has 8 soldiers in total. They will support an average of 300 bundles of laundry. They support 800 soldiers.

Additionally, 40 of our soldiers were attached to the 57th TC CO in Al Asad to work Gun truck missions. The OIC of the group this 2LT McCook and NCOIC is MSG Rivera. All of them are providing an invaluable service to the soldiers in the front lines and the 597th QM CO has been commended by its superiors for a job well done.



**Fort Buchanan
Army Career &
Alumni Program**

ACAP TAP Workshop

February 6, 7, 8 & 9
0730 - 1600 hrs.

at the Fort Buchanan
Training Classroom, Bldg. 511

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) seminars provide information that facilitates moving from the military to the civilian world.

If you are within two years of retirement or one year to ETS, contact Mr. Griffin at the ACAP Office to reserve your seats:

787-707-3681



5 FEB • 6 PM Community Club & Conference Center

Fort Buchanan's community

FLEA MARKET

Sale spaces open to Active Duty, Reserve & DoD employees. A non-ID card holder may register for vending space when sponsored by an ID card holder. **\$10 FEE PER TABLE SPACE**



*Saturday,
11 February '06,
8 am - 2 pm
AAFES/PX
Sidewalk*

Reserve your space or more info. at **787-707-3301/3778**

Puerto Rican mortuary affairs unit reverently cares for the fallen

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Monika Comeaux

A ringing phone interrupts the Soldiers' friendly conversation and the soft tones of Puerto Rican music that fill the air. Their faces turn serious.

The Soldiers there are members of the **311th Quartermaster Co.**, a unit from the 65th Regional Readiness Command, now deployed at the Baghdad International Airport Mortuary Affairs Collection Point. They usually find out about incoming remains by phone.

The mortuary is located at Sather Air Base in a remote corner of the airfield where the road dead-ends. Most units find the location by the grid coordinates because it's hard to give exact directions. A white sign up front states what the place is and a "NO HAT, NO SALUTE" posting courteously reminds visitors to show respect while at the facility.

When remains arrive, the seven-person mortuary affairs team starts working in unison. If it's nighttime, the person on duty wakes up everyone but one person, who will then pull the dayshift as the others sleep. Someone always keeps a vigil.

"In theater, we handle primarily

U.S. and Coalition human remains, civilian and DOD contractors, and any third country nationals who work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said **Capt. Xavier Colon**, the Multi-National Coalition Iraq C-4 Mortuary Affairs Officer. The center also processes remains of translators, detainees and insurgents. They treat all remains with the same respect.

There are approximately ten collection points in theater, Colon said. The one at Baghdad International Airport is the busiest, processing an average of 10 to 12 remains a week. The U.S. Army has the best organized mortuary affairs system in theater, Colon said.

Remains of U.S. servicemembers are usually shipped to Kuwait within 12 hours, said **Sgt. Jorge A. Santiago**, the NCOIC of the collection point. Santiago has only been in country for two months, and has only been an NCO for five, but he runs the center with confidence. He has a lot of experience in his military occupational specialty.

Support during 9/11

Santiago and some of the other Soldiers he is working with at the collection point sifted through the rubble in the north parking lot of the Pentagon days after Sept. 11 looking for the remains of the victims. Later, they helped out at the U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Activity – Europe in Landstuhl, Germany, as the war started. Santiago was also sent on missions with the Disaster Mortuary Affairs Response Teams to Afghanistan and Pakistan. The 24-year-old has seen a lot.

Once the remains arrive at the mortuary, a unit representative or medic signs paperwork to properly release the remains to the collection point. Personal effects, anything the servicemember wore or had with him when he died, are properly inventoried and logged and shipped to Kuwait with the remains. Military-issued items are returned to the unit for turn-in.

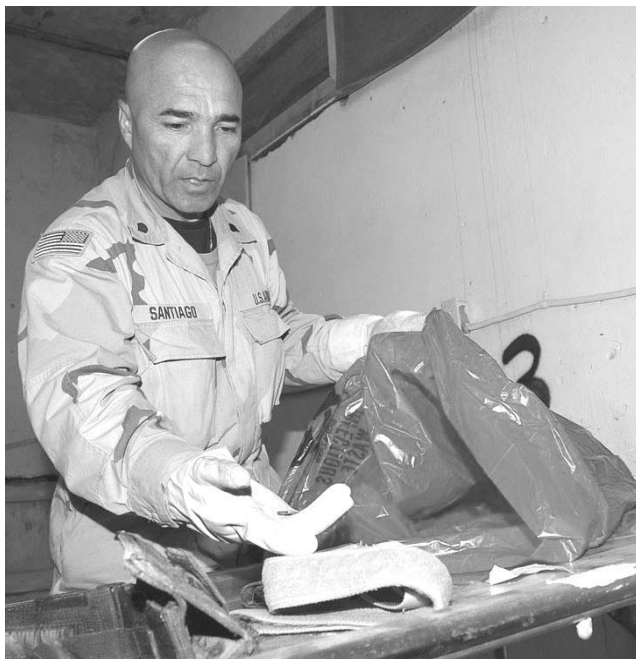
As soon as the processing is done, the remains are put in a refrigeration van and a member of the team picks up the phone to call the movement control team to manifest the remains on a flight.

As the remains await their flight, unit commanders often come in, hold the hands of their fallen Soldiers and say their final thanks and goodbyes. This is the last chance they have before the remains are shipped, said **Spc.**

Pedro A. Santiago, a mortuary affairs specialist in the 311th.

"If they need to take a person off a flight to manifest the remains, they will take a person off the flight. Fallen Soldiers are always first," said **Spc. Luis Rodriguez**, also a mortuary affairs specialist from the 311th working at the collection point.

The Air Force and other services



Spc. Pedro A. Santiago, a mortuary affairs specialist from the 311th Quartermaster Company, places the personnel effects of a deceased servicemember in a biohazard bag at the BIAP Mortuary Affairs Collection Point. These items are shipped with the remains.

put together a detail at Sather to honor the fallen heroes. The servicemembers line up and slowly salute the remains as pallbearers march them in transfer cases wrapped in the U.S. colors onto the plane to make their final journey home.

The remains are quickly processed through Kuwait, and are on their way to Dover Air Force Base, Del., where autopsies are conducted. From that point, they are sent to the mourning families within 24 to 48 hours.

"Escorts are not really authorized in



This single sign in front of the building is the only indication of what the place is. Units normally find the location following grid coordinates, because the remote location at Sather Air Base is rather hard to find.

theater. If the company does want it, it has to be approved at a general's level. If they do come, they stay here and as soon as there is a flight, they fly with the remains," Sgt. Santiago explained.

As a courtesy, the mortuary has set up some beds and always has something to eat and drink on hand, in case an escort needs to get some food and rest before taking off on his journey.

Currently, remains of deceased detainees are also shipped to the United States because there are no adequate facilities in theater to conduct autopsies. The Baghdad International Airport Mortuary Affairs Collection Point is soon to be the first in theater that will have a facility to properly process these remains.

Other personal effects that were not with the Soldier when he passed away, the possessions with which he deployed, are also inventoried by the unit and turned in at the MACP. From there, they go to the Theater Personal Effects Depot in Kuwait, then to the Personal Effects Depot at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. Everything is inventoried and tracked on paper. The belongings are cleaned and are eventually shipped to the family or a person appointed by the deceased.

"The hardest part really is the personal effects. You have to go through everything," said Sgt. Santiago. "Sometimes you have letters and pictures. That is pretty hard. The photos of children are hard to see."

"It is very hard when you have a Soldier from your same nation or country, because you feel that this Soldier had the same dreams as you about

Continued next page



Spc. Luis Rodriguez, a mortuary affairs specialist from the 311th Quartermaster Company from Puerto Rico staples the inventory sheet on a biohazard bag, which holds the personal effects of a deceased servicemember. The bag is placed in the transfer case with the remains when they are shipped.

Little man does big job

By 2nd Lt. Anthony D. Buchanan - 133d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BRASSFIELD-MORA, Samarra -- People all over the world have heard stories about little people doing big things. These stories inspired us all as children back then and motivate us to do big things as grown-ups today. The 3rd ID's 3-69 Armor Battalion has its own story of a little guy doing big things.

Standing somewhere between 5'2" and 5'3" tall, the battalion S-1 for the 3-69 Armor, **1st Lt. Jonathan Barreto**, from Moca, Puerto Rico, is probably the biggest asset the battalion commander could have here at FOB Brassfield-Mora.

"He keeps us going and keeps the commander informed and on schedule," said Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick W Muskevitch. "He's doing

a captain's job and is one the most effective S-1s I've ever had."

Although small in stature, Barreto is not the kid who had his lunch money stolen or was beaten up after school. He boasts a 29-2 boxing record from his high school days with 15 of his victories coming by knockout. So what all does this boxer from Puerto Rico do?

There is a long list. For starters, he takes care of Soldiers' promotions.

Closely following promotions are pay, awards, transportation issues, housing and assisting the first sergeants in the battalion.

"I enjoy being around the troops and taking care of Soldiers," said Barreto.

A big part of taking care of the Soldiers is submitting awards. Some of the awards Barreto has submitted are two Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars and 80 Purple Hearts.



Moca native, 1st Lt. Johnathan Barreto, the 3ID's 3-69 personnel administrative officer, takes time from his busy schedule to pose for a photo.

Altogether, he has tracked and processed more than 1,500 awards during the battalion's deployment. The paperwork for these awards alone would drive someone else crazy, but not Barreto. "Paperwork is not the problem; the problem is when paperwork is submit-

ted incorrectly," said Barreto. "Sometimes the paperwork doesn't have all the documentation, and it has to be sent back to the companies."

In addition to the duties above, he coordinates R & R for the Soldiers and VIP visits to the battalion. He has coor-

minated more than 35 visits for VIPs during the battalion's deployment. A few VIPs whom Barreto has made accommodations for are Gen. Casey and Maj. Gen. Turner.

There is an enormous amount of things Barreto has done for his battalion that no one hears about. The battalion S-5, 1st Lt. Doug Maritato, who refers to Barreto as "Johnny B," said, "He's one of the hardest workers I've ever seen."

So what big thing will Barreto do next? Well, he's coordinating transportation for members of his battalion to fly home. He's doing what he does well and what he'll continue to do for the Soldiers of the 3-69 Armor.

Some of the Soldiers may not come up to Barreto and say "Thanks, Johnny B, for all the great things you're doing for us," but Barreto enjoys the simple fact that he has just done his job...taking care of Soldiers; something big, from someone small.

918th Military Police Company: more than weekend warriors

BY Spc. Anna-Marie Risner
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq -- With the increase in Reserve and National Guard mobilizations, many "weekend warriors" have found themselves pulled from their civilian lives to deploy to Iraq. For many, this has caused a lot of disruption back home -- with Soldiers being forced to quit jobs and put a hold on college education.

But for one Puerto Rico National Guard unit, this disruption is just part of the job.

The 918th Military Police Company, originally Battery A, 1st Battalion, 162nd Artillery Regiment, deployed to Iraq last year and have been performing a number of jobs in the area.

Starting at FOB Danger, the units' mission has included everything from convoy security to detainee transport. Soldiers assigned to 918th keep morale

up throughout their many jobs by talking with each other and reflecting on their families and lives back home.

"Me as a leader, I need to keep their morale high," said MSgt. Juan Lopez. The Carolina, Puerto Rico, native said on his first trip to Iraq -- during Operation Desert Storm -- he would watch how leaders handled morale issues, and he tries to use some of those tactics now.

He added that when his Soldiers come to him with problems, he tries to look at all angles of the situation while helping them through difficult times.

"It's never easy," said Spc. Nestor Claudio, "but it's what we're trained to do." The Cagnas native put his forensics studies on hold to deploy with the unit.

"Back home I carry around [the periodic table of elements] and HE means helium ... here, I carry around my Mark-19 and HE means high explosives."

Some Soldiers find solace in photos

and memories of their families. Staff Sgt. Jose Acevedo keeps a family picture on the desktop of his computer -- a reminder of his wife and five children who eagerly await his return to Bayamon.

"They miss me a lot," he said. "They don't really understand ... When I went home [on mid-tour leave] and I had to go back, they didn't want me to go."

He added that this deployment has been hardest on his three-year-old daughter. Many of his pictures show the little girl lovingly clinging to daddy's leg.

For these troops, Operation Iraqi Freedom is winding down, but for many more occasional Soldiers, the year away from home is just beginning.

Hopefully for these service members and the countless others receiving mobilization orders, they can take a cue from 918th members and survive on happy memories of those waiting back home.

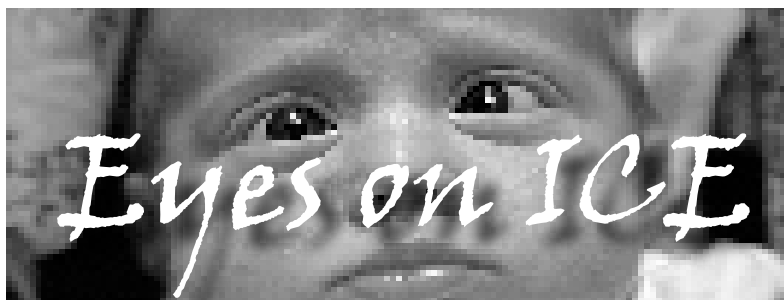
MORTUARY ... from previous page

going back home," Rodriguez said. It takes a strong person to work in this profession.

The small Puerto Rican team lives every day in seclusion. Not many come and visit them unless they have business to do. They rely on each other, taking care of one another every day of their deployment. Most of them don't even want to go on leave, because they feel they would let the team down if they left.

When asked what they would like to say to the families, all of them highlighted that the remains are treated with dignity, reverence and respect, and are shipped home as soon as possible.

"I don't like when we have work to do because that means that we lost somebody," Rodriguez said. "I always say, 'respect everyone while they are alive,' because when you lose somebody, it's too late."



Customer comments help Fort Buchanan facilities reassess their services and programs to better serve are customers. Your comments are important to us. You can access ICE through any computer with internet connectivity by either logging onto the Buchanan Web page or directly to <http://ice.disa.mil/>

Customer Comments on the Army Career and Alumni Program:

I came to this office just to do a clearing process but I came out with more information than I expected. It helped me on my transition to the civilian life and how to find a job and the tools to look for employment. Great service.

Customer Comments on AAFES:

AAFES, thank you for the imagination put into the December specials, like the Karaoke and other things. Haven't seen that in other PXs on other installations. I would however like to comment on two things that need improvement. #1: AAFES employees don't seem trained or knowledgeable on the specials. For instance in December Christmas CDs were advertised at \$2.99, however, I asked three employees in that area (hard to find an employee in the first place) and none of them knew about the sale. This has happened with other sales throughout December. #2. The express line, especially at the PXtra. Please ensure your cashiers honor the purpose of the express line. Too often, especially at lunch time, these cashiers will take customers with carts overfilled with stuff and not direct them to the regular lines. Could you please post a larger sign so that people know they can only have a certain number of items and also instruct cashiers to be more proactive? Thank you.

Golf Course Customer Comments:

Very nice facility. This was my first visit since 1991, I was very impressed with a Club House and the grounds. Keep up the nice work.

Golf Course Responds:

Thank you for your comments concerning the golf course. We strive to provide the best facilities possible and we depend on customers like you to provide us with feedback to let us know how we are doing. We continue to make changes to update the course to provide a challenging round of golf for our guests. Our Club house area is in the process of being updated as well with the arrival of new furniture and the planned addition of the "Bunker Bar" which will provide a place for our guests to kick back and relax. Again, I want to thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on our programs and facilities.

Family Housing Customer Comments:

It has been a very sad experience to live in "military" housing since we were assigned to Fort Buchanan. The excuses given for lack of improvement are "funding". I believe that major issues such as these should be addressed and sent to Congress regarding closure for bases unable to maintain and upkeep housing for families are to occupy. If there are things that spouses and families can do, to assist housing, by make our Government and the Military aware of the situation here, a town meeting to address these concerns would be a start.

Family Housing Responds:

Funding to improve our houses is a problem due to the moratorium on construction and improvement of all government owned buildings at Fort Buchanan, not just housing, but all other buildings. We expect the moratorium to be lifted in the near future;

Continued next page ...

Secretary of the Army approves body armor and protective equipment reimbursement program

By Major Paul Cucuzzella,
U.S. Army Claims Service

The Secretary of the Army has issued final instructions implementing the Department of the Army's program to reimburse Soldiers who purchased body armor and certain other protective, health and safety equipment for use in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers can also be paid for these items if the items were purchased for them by someone else, such as members of their family. Soldiers currently on active duty, including those in the Army Reserve or National Guard, former Soldiers, and survivors of deceased Soldiers may now file claims and receive reimbursement for privately-purchased protective equipment if the Soldier was not issued equivalent equipment by the Army prior to deployment on one of these Operations.

The Army will reimburse Soldiers for protective body armor, combat helmets, ballistic eye protection, hydration systems, summer weight gloves, and knee and elbow pads. As for body armor, a Soldier may be reimbursed for the purchase of a complete outer tactical vest (OTV), or for the separately-purchased components of an OTV, to include Small Arms Protective Insert (SAPI) plates. To qualify for reimbursement, the equipment must have been purchased after September 10, 2001, and before August 1, 2004, and all equipment for which reimbursement is sought must be turned into the Army at the time a claim for reimbursement is filed. Claimants who no longer have the equipment must explain in writing

why they cannot turn the items in with their claim. If there is a good reason, they may still be paid.

The amount of reimbursement for a given item depends upon whether the claimant produces proof of the actual purchase price. A claimant who provides proof of purchase will be reimbursed the full purchase price plus shipping costs for each item, up to \$1,100 for any single item. If no proof of purchase is provided, the claimant will be reimbursed at a rate pre-

established by the Department of the Army for each item of equipment. For example, the Army will pay \$551.60 for a complete Outer Tactical Vest (OTV) if no purchase receipt is submitted with the claim.

Current active duty or active reserve component Soldiers who seek reimbursement should complete and file a DD Form 2902 with the first field grade commander in the Soldier's current chain of command. With the completed DD Form 2902, the Soldier must provide a copy of proof of deployment (such as deployment orders or a DD Form 214 noting deployment) and copies of all receipts or other proof of purchase for the items claimed. The Soldier must also turn in all reimbursable items to his or her unit at the time the claim is filed. If a Soldier is not in possession of some or all of the items, the Soldier should submit a written statement explaining why the items are not available.

Former Soldiers and survivors of deceased Soldiers should complete a DD Form 2902 claim form and mail it directly to the U.S. Army Claims Service (USARCS) at

the address provided in block 12 of the DD Form 2902. As with claims submitted within the chain of command, claims forms mailed to USARCS must be accompanied by copies of proof of deployment and proof of purchase, and the items for which reimbursement is sought. Shipping costs for delivering items to USARCS are compensable and can be noted on the DD Form 2902. Again, if the items are not available for turn in, a written explanation as to the reasons why is sufficient.

Once a claim is filed, the claim will be processed through USARCS for payment by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Either USARCS or the claimant's chain of command will inform the claimant of any deficiencies in a claim, and will provide the claimant with ample opportunity to correct any such deficiency. Although the claims process has been designed to ensure rapid settlement and payment of claims, potential claimants should not wait too long to file claims, as all claims must be filed by 3 October 2006.

More information on the body armor and protective equipment reimbursement program, including a list of reimbursable items together with the pre-established compensation rates, can be found by accessing www.jagcnet.army.mil, and selecting the U.S. Army Claims Service link under the "Client Services and Links" section. This link can be accessed by the public. Potential claimants can also obtain a printable DD Form 2902 through this link. Claimants or commanders can also contact Mr. Joseph Frattallone, Claims Attorney (787-707-5155) at the Installation's Claims Office (Building 214) to file a claim or for more information concerning this program.



Give water a hand!

By Anibal Negron,
DPW Environmental Division

Fort Buchanan's storm water flows over driveways, residential areas, parking lots, lawns, facilities, auto shops, and sidewalks. It picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants resulting from our current operations.

Storm water can flow into storm sewer system or directly into the Toro Creek, the lake, streams, and finally end up in the San Juan Bay. This untreated discharge may potentially affect Puerto Rico's water resources that we currently use for outdoor activities and to provide drinking water.

By practicing healthy household and operational habits, we can keep common pollutants like pesticides, grass clippings, pets waste, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of the storm water.

Good habits that we can implement are:

Check your vehicle, machinery, and/or equipment for leaks and spills.

Recycle used oil and vehicle fluids at AAFES Service



Station or Auto Hobby Shop.

Use pesticides only when it is necessary, always follow the label's instructions.

Sweep up debris, rather than hosing down areas.

Do not over water the lawn to avoid runoff.

Plant grass and vegetation on bare soil surfaces to prevent erosion.

Purchase non-toxic, biodegradable, and recycled products whenever possible.

Clean paint brushes in a sink.

Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area.

Pickup pets waste and dispose it properly.

For more information, contact the Environmental Office at (787) 707-3508 or 3575.

Cell phones raise work-home stress

By Jennifer Warner
WebMD News

Increasing use of cell phones and pagers may blurring the boundaries between work and home and raising stress levels at both places. A new study shows use of cell phones can cause work worries to spill over into home time for both men and women. But only women seem to suffer from the opposite effect with cell phones carrying family concerns into the office.

The results showed that ongoing use of mobile communications technology such as cell phones and pagers -- but not email -- was linked to heightened psychological distress and reduced family satisfaction. Researchers say the findings suggest that cell phone technology may make people more accessible but at a psychological cost.

In the study, researchers analyzed data from a survey of working couples to determine if increasing spillover between

work and home caused by new technology was linked to any changes in psychological distress or family satisfaction over time.

The results, published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, showed that increasing use of cell phones and pagers was linked to a decrease in family satisfaction and increased stress over a two-year period. Researchers found work worries carrying over into home life caused by cell phone use had negative

consequences for both men and women, but only women

suffered from the opposite effect with carryover from home causing increasing stress at work. The results suggest that for women, spillover from both work and family worries and responsibilities negatively affects their level of stress and family satisfaction. But researchers say as use of cell phones and pagers becomes increasingly prevalent, the line between family and work life may continue to blur. "The question of 'blurred boundaries' may become an irrelevant one for the next generation of workers, spouses, and parents because they cannot imagine life any other way," says researcher Noelle Chesley, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, in a news release. "Even so, worries about the implications for technology users are not likely to disappear."



Army eLearning

Free state-of-the art computer training for Army personnel

By Teresita Vera
Training Coordinator

At no cost to the individual or their organization, all active duty soldiers, members of the National Guard or Reserves, Department of the Army civilian employees, and USMA and ROTC cadets are authorized to access over 1,500 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses, Desktop Computer Skills, Microsoft Operating Systems to Human Resources, Management and Leadership as well as Foreign Languages from any location, around the clock (24x7).

All you have to do to use Army e-Learning is get an Army Knowledge Online account and complete your registration through ATRRS. Be sure to browse the Army e-Learning Course Catalog to see the courses available to you.

If you have any questions please call (787) 707-3546 or 3888.

CYS holding its own Star Search!

Child and Youth Services (CYS) is looking for eligible individuals to participate in a video filming/auditions to perform at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Centennial National Conference in Boston on May 6, 2006.

All types of entertainment are welcome! The search is open to all CYS/Club members ages 6-18. CYS/Clubs will be required to verify that performers are registered members. Past acts have included singers, hoop dancers, musicians, jugglers, dancers and more!

To apply, prepare a standard VHS or DVD (other types of media will not be reviewed) of a performance to: Child and Youth Services (CYS), Attn: Boys & Girls Clubs of America Centennial National Conference in Boston, attn: Joseph Marton, 218 Brook Street, Fort Buchanan, PR 00934, or drop the video off at the Child and Youth Services (CYS) building 1020a, attn: Joseph Marton.

Each tape/DVD should be clearly labeled with Name, contact person, address, email,

and telephone. Please indicate the names and ages of performers as well as the number of acts on each tape or disc. More than one act may be included. No additional information is needed. To qualify for auditions all tapes must be received by February 1, 2006.

For those selected, Boys & Girls Clubs of America will pay for travel, housing and meals for up to six Club members and one adult advisor. Winners will be posted on bgca.net and notified by March 8. Audition materials will not be returned.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Marton 787 707 3432.



ICE ... from previous page ...

presently we are preparing projects (project documents) for repairs to all our housing units. We will complete these documents before 23 December. These projects were requested by SERO (Southeast Region office), who provide funds for these repairs. But again, until the moratorium is lifted we must follow the rules. I also must say that the repair projects are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2008. In FY-06 Las Colinas Housing area is scheduled for exterior painting, all residents will be informed of the start date as soon as we are ready.



Caribbean Scoop

a taste of events to come...

Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico • February 2006
visit us on the internet at www.buchanan.army.mil/mwr

Child & Youth Services Baseball & Softball League Registration

Feb 1 - 28 • For boys and girls 4-18 years old. Registrations at CYS Central Registration, Bldg. 1020, Buchanan Heights. Fees: Active Duty & DoD \$50 per child, other \$60 per child. Needed for registration: birth certificate, shots record, updated physical exam. Season Opening Date: 28 March • 8:30 am at McArthur Baseball Field.
COACHES NEEDED! CALL FOR INFO.
For more information call CYS Central Registration at 787-707-3787.

Library

Computer Orientation at Library

Wed, 1 February • 2 PM

To assist customers in accessing public computers the library will be offering computer orientations on different subjects the first Wednesday of each month at 2 pm.

Preschool Story Time & Craft

8 February - Theme: Valentine's Day Cards
22 February - Theme: African Crafts
Story time & craft is held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 3 pm. Introduce your child to the Fun of Reading! Participating children engage in a lively session of stories, arts and crafts, finger plays, and reading games.

For more information on these events call Library at 787-707-3208/3812.

Fitness & Sports

Outdoors Body Toning Class

Tue, 7 February • 5:30 PM at Physical Fitness Center. A one hour body toning class that will be done outdoors in front of the Fitness Center, Bldg 167.

Basic Self Defense Class

Thu, 16 February • 5:30 pm at the Fitness Center. Learn some basic self defense techniques. Come dressed to exercise.

Swiss Ball Class

Tue, 28 February • 5:30 pm at the Fitness Center. This class will be focused on different stretching & toning exercises using a Swiss ball.
For more information on these classes call Fitness Center at 787-707-3767.

President's Softball Tournament

Registration Deadline: Tue, 7 February
Tournament: 11 - 12 February, game times will be set in accord with participation. Fees: All Military and DoD employees - Free, Federal Employees Teams - \$125, ID Cardholder Sponsored Teams - \$150. Register your team at the Fitness Center by 02/7/05, COB.
For more information call Adult Sports Office at 787-707-3277.

Community Recreation

Flea Market

Sat, 11 February • 8 am - 2 pm at AAFES/PX Sidewalk. Sale spaces open to All ID card holders. A non-ID card holder may register for vending space when sponsored by an ID card holder. Fee: \$10 per table space.
To reserve your space or more info. call CRD at 787-707-3301/3778.

Trail Biking at Aguadilla

Sat, 4 February • Departing at 7 am from Outdoors Recreation, Bldg. 67. Trip will finish at Crash Boat Beach. Fee: \$45, includes bike, helmet and transportation to Aguadilla site. Registration Deadline: Fri, 27 January.

Scuba Diving Trip to Crash Boat Beach

Saturday, 25 February '06 • Departing at 5:45 am from Outdoors Recreation, Bldg. 67. All Day Trip! Limited to 12 participants. Fee: \$30 per person, includes 2 tanks and transportation to Aguadilla. Registration Deadline: Fri, 17 February.
For more information call Outdoors Recreation: 787-707-3734 or 787-552-7222.

Community Club & Conference Center

DISCO

THURSDAY

4 - 10 PM

FREE ADMISSION

FRIDAY

4 PM - 1 AM

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY

9 PM TO 3 AM

ADMISSION:

\$5 PER PERSON

LADIES ENTER FREE

9 - 11 PM

DRESS: CASUAL-ELEGANT

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
787-707-3535 XT. 200, 201**



Caribbean Scoop

Inside:

- Extended Hours at the Disco!
- President's Softball Tournament
- YS Baseball & Softball League Registration Info.
- Flea Market
- Biking Trip to Aguadilla
- Scuba Diving Trip to Crash Boat Beach, Aguadilla

Read more about these events inside at the MWR Caribbean Scoop!

Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico • February 2006
visit us on the internet at www.buchanan.army.mil/mwr

MARDI GRAS CARNIVAL

FEATURING A
BEST
COSTUME
CONTEST!

FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY

Community Club & Conference Center
5:30 - 11 pm

FOOD sampling
JAZZ music
PARTY favors

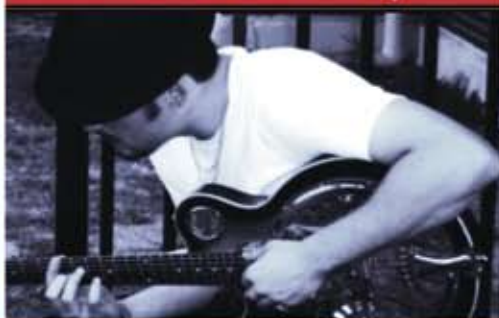
Admission: \$8 per person

Tickets sold at the doors.
For details call 787-707-3535
xt. 200

EARLY IN FEBRUARY AT FORT BUCHANAN'S COMMUNITY CLUB & CONFERENCE CENTER

Matthew D & Random Tuesday

The Midwest's Premier Party Band



DoD Show!

Date: Sat, 4 FEB '06
Time: 8 pm
Place: Community
Club & Conference
Center (CCCC)
Free Admission!



Date: Sat, 5 FEB '06
Time: 6 pm
Place: Community
Club & Conference
Center (CCCC)
Free Admission
Bars will be open
Food will be available!